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Almighty and Eternal Heavenly Father, thou art great beyond the limitations of our minds. Thou art the creator - and we are thy creatures; thou art the Lord of history - and we are its temporary participants; thou art the designer of even our mentality - and with that mentality we fail to comprehend thee and thy mysteries. Lift the veil from our hearts and minds O Lord. Help us to understand life and its meaning. Give us strength and Faith that we may know thine involvement in our lives. Give us Faith that extends beyond doubt - Faith that is not shaken in the Face of life's sometimes harsh and heartless blows. Give us the precious gift of hope - that in thee we may have hope beyond tragedy; that our every waking minute may be filled with thee assurance that all things work for the good - for those who love and put their trust in thee.

O thou who art the source of all living things we humbly thank thee for the goodness that has been expressed to us. We are thankful for thy love that created us - and the world in which we live - out of nothing; we thank thee for the patience whereby thou hast given us Freedom; Freedom to decide and choose even to turn our back on thee. We thank thee that thou hast so loved thy creation that thou hast affirmed its goodness by sending thy Son to dwell in it. We thank thee that thou hast so loved thy creatures that even life itself was not too precious to be sacrificed that they might live. O God in this Lenten season help us as we approach the Foot of the cross. Help us to know and to understand its meaning. Help us to see in the one there lifted up - ourselves - our guilt, our selfish pride, our sin. Help us to know feel the significance of his resurrection - help us to derive assurance in his victory over evil and death.

O God we pray for thy church universal, that its word may be proclaimed with strength and integrity; that its ministers may be filled with the truth of thy holy spirit; that its members may realize their citizenship in the heavenly kingdom.

We pray O Lord for all thy children throughout the world who suffer; For those who hunger and thirst, for those who are cold and naked; for the sick and the bereaved, for the troubled in spirit. We pray O Lord for those of our own number who are sick this morning. Give to them and thy children everywhere the healing comfort of thy presence

All this we utter in thy presence through our Lord and mediator - even Jesus Christ. Amen.